

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /059 W

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P R 241335Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0514

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, FI

SUBJECT: CENTRIST MINORITY GOVERNMENT LIKELY TO BE NAMED
NEXT WEEK

REF: HELSINKI 1985

1. PRESS REPORTS AND POLITICAL SOURCES NOW AGREE THAT A CENTRIST MINORITY GOVERNMENT WILL BE FORMED, PERHAPS AS EARLY AS WEDNESDAY, SEPT 29. THE PRESS PUBLISHED TODAY (SEPT 24) A LETTER PRESIDENT KEKKONEN HAD SENT TO THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND CENTER PARTY PARLIAMENTARY LEADERSHIP ON THE PREVIOUS TUESDAY. IN HIS LETTER KEKKONEN INDICATED THAT OF THE VARIOUS PROBABLE COMBINATIONS (SEE REFTEL), THE ONLY ONES WHICH SEEM FEASIBLE AT THIS TIME ARE (A) SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC MINORITY GOVERNMENT (B) A CENTRIST MINORITY GOVERNMENT HEADED BY THE CENTER PARTY, OR (C) IN THE EVENT THE FIRST TWO OPTIONS DO NOT MATERIALIZE, A CARETAKER GOVERNMENT TO BE NAMED BY THE PRESIDENT.

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2. THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS HAVE CONTINUED TO EXHIBIT

RELUCTANCE TO FORM A MINORITY GOVERNMENT, WHEREAS THE CENTER PARTY HAS IN EFFECT ACCEPTED THE POSSIBILITY OPENED BY THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER OF FORMING A MINORITY CENTRIST GOVERNMENT. LAST NIGHT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CENTER PARTY DECIDED TO RECOMMEND THE FORMATION OF A CENTER PARTY-LED MINORITY GOVERNMENT; THE CENTER PARTY'S 70-MEMBER PARTY COUNCIL WILL MEET ON TUESDAY, AT WHICH TIME IT IS EXPECTED TO APPROVE THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION. THE SWEDISH PEOPLE'S PARTY (RKP) MEETS TODAY, AND THE LIBERAL PARTY (LKP) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND PARTY COUNCIL MEET OVER THE WEEKEND. BOTH PARTIES ARE EXPECTED TO APPROVE PARTICIPATION WITH THE CENTER PARTY IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

3. THE MAIN OBSTACLES REMAINING TO BE OVERCOME IN THE FORMATION OF A CENTRIST MINORITY GOVERNMENT RELATE TO THE APPORTIONMENT OF CABINET SEATS AMONG THE THREE PARTIES AND TO THE ISSUE AS TO WHO WILL HEAD THE NEW GOVERNMENT AS PRIME MINISTER. CONSERVATIVE PARTY LEADERS TOLD EMBOFFS LAST NIGHT THAT THEY HAVE ADVISED THE PRESIDENT AND THE CENTER PARTY THAT CONSERVATIVE PARTY SUPPORT OF THE CENTRIST MINORITY GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED AND THAT THE CONSERVATIVES WILL CONSIDER ITS POSITIONS ON GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS.

4. WILL REPORT DEVELOPMENTS.
VOTH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION, FORM OF GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976HELSIN02023
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760361-0275
From: HELSINKI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760924/aaaaauej.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 HELSINKI 1985
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 APR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <09 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CENTRIST MINORITY GOVERNMENT LIKELY TO BE NAMED NEXT WEEK
TAGS: PINT, FI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006